

National Alcohol Screening Day – April 7, 2005

Costs of Alcohol Abuse and Dependency in the Workplace

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) states that despite major advances in automotive safety, alcohol continues to cause approximately 40,000 deaths and 2 million injuries each year. NHTSA is co-sponsoring with the organizers of National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD), a one-day event that offers education, screening and brief intervention for any who drinks alcohol. The program uses confidential screening and brief intervention to allow those who attend an event to assess their drinking behaviors for their own health, and/or to obtain referral for evaluation and treatment to prevent the progression of an alcohol problem, if indicated.

NASD is an excellent opportunity for businesses, organizations, health departments, schools and colleges to promote health and safety to its employees. An average employee who engages in hazardous drinking adds an average \$3,700 to his/her employer's health care costs. In fact, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicate that alcohol abuse is one of the top ten conditions affecting employer productivity.

For a successful event, sites should target "built-in" audiences such as in-house health fairs, clinics, businesses, libraries, etc. The NASD includes a validated written screening questionnaire, the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT), developed by the World Health Organization, and an opportunity for participants to meet with a health professional free of charge to ask questions and review their screening results. Referrals are made when appropriate. In 2004, there were 5400 sites that participated in NASD. Over 200,000 Americans attended an NASD event and over 126,000 people were screened.

Since there is a relationship between alcohol misuse and impaired driving, the Kentucky State Police Governor's Highway Safety Program along with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration want to promote National Alcohol Screening Day and encourages your participation. For more information, you may visit and register on-line on the National Alcohol Screening Day website at: www.nationalalcoholscreeningday.org or call (800) 253-7658 for information on receiving a free National Alcohol Screening Day registration kit. In order to guarantee delivery of your kit(s) by April 7, you must register by March 24, 2005. If you would like to host a screening, but cannot do so on April 7th, you can schedule another date for the event.

If you do host a screening site, please contact Therese Richerson with the Kentucky State Police Governor's Highway Safety Program at (502) 695-6368 or therese.richerson@ky.gov and report the location and number of persons who were screened. Your participation in National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) is greatly appreciated.